FOUNDED BY QUAID-I-AZAM MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

DAWN

Sunday
January 11, 2026
Rajab 21, 1447

KARACHI

Rs 50.00
34 Pages
Vol. LXXX No. 11
Regd. No. SS-022

www.dawn.com

FO warns against travel to Iran amid unrest

• Intending visitors advised to wait till situation improves; residents told to exercise extreme caution • Major cities gripped by rallies as intensified crackdown feared amid internet blackout • Reports of 65 deaths, dozens injured, 2,311 arrests • IRGC, army vow to 'thwart enemy's plots' after Trump's shooting remarks • UN-mandated mission says threats by third states are contrary to international law

Dawn Report

ISLAMABAD: As Iranian authorities indicated an intensified crackdown on protesters amid a widespread communications blackout, Pakistan on Saturday advised its citizens not to travel to the neighbouring country, gripped by violent unrest.

A statement by the Foreign Office advised against all unnecessary travel to the Islamic Republic, citing safety and security concerns, until there is any improvement in the situation.

The Foreign Office spokesperson, meanwhile, advised the Pakistani nationals currently residing in Iran to exercise extreme caution, remain vigilant, minimise non-essential travel, and stay in regular contact with the Pakistani missions.

The spokesperson earlier this week said Islamabad firmly opposed any foreign interference in the domestic affairs of other countries, including Iran.

Internet blackout

Major Iranian cities were gripped overnight by new mass rallies. However, activists expressed fear that authorities were intensifying their suppression of the demonstrations under the cover of an internet blackout.

The blackout sparked fears among activists that authorities were violently cracking down on the protests, with less chance that the proof will reach the outside world. According to a report by the Iran Human Rights Activists News Agency, the death toll in the protests rose to 65, *Anadolu* reported.

Troubling events: Editorial on Page 6

The report added that protests took place in 512 locations in 180 cities in all 31 provinces, resulting in the deaths of 50 protesters, 14 law enforcement and security officials, and one government-affiliated civilian.

Demonstrations also left dozens injured and 2,311 detained. The injuries were largely caused by pellet shots and plastic bullets, according to the report. Authorities have not issued a statement about those killed or injured.

Protests have taken place across Iran for nearly two weeks in a

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FOREIGN Minister Ishaq Dar is being greeted by Hissein Brahim Taha, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's secretary general, and Ambassador Fawad Sher on his arrival at the bloc's secretariat in Jeddah.—X/@ForeignOfficePk

TTAP urges protests on election anniversary

• Achakzai calls those violating Constitution 'security risk', says Nawaz sidelined for following law • Opposition alliance leaders visit Minar-i-Pakistan; supporters denied entry

By Mansoor Malik

LAHORE: The Tehreek Tahafuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TTAP) has appealed to the people to take to the streets on Feb 8 to oppose "fascism, restore the Constitution, and safeguard the country's sovereignty".

"Those playing with the Constitution of Pakistan are a security risk," TTAP chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai said while speaking to journalists at the Lahore Press Club on Saturday.

Mr Achakzai invited people from all walks of life to join the movement for the restoration of the Constitution and to take to the streets on Feb 8, marking the second anniversary of the February 2023 elections. "If we do not come out on the roads to stop fascism, restore the Constitution and the country's sovereignty on Feb 8, we will all be responsible for Pakistan's downfall," he warned.

Flanked by TTAP Vice Chairman Senator Allama Raja Nasir Abbas, Haqooq-i-Khalq Party chief Ammar Ali Jan and Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar, Mr Achakzai said powerful quarters had blocked the natural process of leadership development through suppression, leading to internal crises. Unlike other countries, he said, courts had even snatched a political party's election symbol.

Referring to PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif, the TTAP chief said the former PM had tried to follow the constitutional path but was sidelined and punished with a 10-year forced exile.

Expressing hope that history would forgive him, Mr Achakzai said he had conveyed to Mr Sharif and would also speak to incarcerated PTI chief Imran Khan that the next democratic government should honour judges who did not surrender to pressure and instead resigned from their positions, by conferring upon them the title

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OIC adopts resolutions on 'Somaliland', Palestine

Dawn Report

ISLAMABAD: The Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held its 22nd extraordinary session in Jeddah on Saturday — adopting two resolutions, the first to condemn Israel's recognition of the so-called "Somaliland" as an independent state and the second on Tel Aviv's continued aggression against the Palestinian people as well as its plans for annexation and displacement from their land.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar also participated in the session, where he was received by OIC Secretary General Hissein Brahim Taha and Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the bloc, Ambassador Fawad Sheron, upon his arrival.

Israel has recently recognised Somaliland as an independent and sovereign state, with Somaliland's president, Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, saying his state will join the Abraham Accords. Later, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar visited Somaliland, condemned by Somalia as an "unauthorised incursion".

According to a statement issued by the bloc, OIC Secretary General Taha in his speech emphasised that the extraordinary ministerial meeting was being held at a "very delicate and sensitive time" to discuss the "serious developments affecting the sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Somalia".

Referring to Israel, he described its announcement recognising "Somaliland" region as an

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PM forms panel to review progress of KP projects

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday announced the formation of a committee, headed by Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, to review the progress of federal government-sponsored development projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The committee will visit Peshawar and, in coordination with public representatives, review the progress of these schemes.

According to the PM Office Media Wing, the premier met political representatives from KP and assured them about timely completion of ongoing Centre-funded development projects in the province.

He stated that the federal government was fully aware of the problems faced by the people of KP and taking tangible steps, within its jurisdiction, to ensure sustainable

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ON OTHER PAGES

School timing revised across Sindh

The Sindh government decides to change school opening timings for a period of two weeks amid a cold spell in most areas across the province. Under the revised schedule, all government and private educational institutions across Sindh will now open at 9am instead of their earlier timings. According to an official notification, the revised timings will remain in force until Jan 26.

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ICON

Raids, clash in three KP districts leave 12 terrorists dead

• ISPR says forces kill 11 terrorists in N. Waziristan, Kurram raids • One killed, two held in Khyber • Two CTD men martyred in Peshawar, Bajaur attacks • JUI-F leader dies after South Waziristan blast; Fazl condemns attacks on clerics

Dawn Report

PESHAWAR: At least 12 terrorists were killed in multiple counter-terrorism operations and gun battles in different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday, while violence elsewhere in the province left two Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) personnel martyred in targeted attacks and claimed the life of a senior JUI-F leader who succumbed to injuries from a bomb blast a day earlier in South Waziristan.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said security forces carried out two intelligence-based operations on Thursday after receiving information about the presence of terrorists.

It said the first operation was conducted in North Waziristan, where troops engaged a terrorists' location and gunned down six of them in an exchange of fire. The second operation, conducted jointly by police and security forces in Kurram district, resulted in the killing of five terrorists, the statement said.

ISPR said weapons and ammunition were recovered from the dead terrorists, whom it described as "Indian-sponsored khwarij". It said the terrorists had been involved in attacks on security forces and law enforcement agencies, as well as the targeted killing of civilians.

The military's media wing said sanitisation operations were being conducted to eliminate any remaining terrorists in the areas, adding that counterterrorism operations under the "Azm-i-Istehkam" vision would continue.

Separately, one terrorist was killed, another injured and two were arrested during an exchange of gunfire in the Malagori area of Khyber district, sources told *Dawn* on Saturday. Residents alerted security forces after spotting a group moving towards the hilly locality of Murad Dhand near the Khunarri dam, the sources added.

The sources said security forces, aided by local armed volunteers, engaged the terrorists, while gunship helicopters and artillery were also called to pound the terrorists' position.

A video circulating after the clash showed two blindfolded suspects in custody amid a crowd of residents, while an army official urged local volunteers not to shelter terrorists.

Local sources said it was the first such clash in Malagori, where Chinese engineers and workers are stationed for maintenance work at the Warsak Dam and the construction of an irrigation canal from the dam to Peshawar.

CTD officials martyred

Meanwhile, a CTD official was martyred by unidentified motorcyclists in the jurisdiction of the Regi police station in Peshawar on Saturday, police said. Police spokesperson Alam Khan said the official, identified as Sanaullah, was targeted in the Regi area and a search operation was launched.

Another CTD official was martyred in Bajaur's War Mamund tehsil on Saturday evening after unknown

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